

Message Text

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TAGS: ICNAF, EFIS, OCON, IT

SUBJ: ICNAF SPECIAL MEETING, ROME, JANUARY 21-26

REF: STATE 9719

COPENHAGEN FOR REGIONAL FISHERIES ATTACHE

1. BECAUSE OF CURRENT DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION AND PREVIOUS COMMITMENTS BY APPROPRIATE SENIOR MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) OFFICIALS, EMBASSY UNABLE OBTAIN APPOINTMENT WITH HIGH LEVEL MFA REP TO DISCUSS ICNAF ISSUES BEFORE JANUARY 17. (DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS GUAZZARONI NOT RPT NOT AT THE MINISTRY DURING THIS PERIOD.) CONSEQUENTLY, EMBOFF CALLED ON MFA REP FIACCADORI (DIRECTOR, OFFICE IX, FISHERIES AFFAIRS) JANUARY 16 AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL. EMBOFF LEFT NOTE VERBALE BASED ON REFTEL AND COPIES OF NOTES BY US ICNAF COMMISSIONERS ON HERRING QUOTAS AND ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES. COPIES OF NOTE VERBALE AND US COMMISSIONERS' NOTES WERE ALSO PROVIDED TO MINISTRY MERCHANT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MARINE (MMM) DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERA FOR MARITIME

FISHERIES DE LEON.

2. FIACCODORI INDICATED GOI COULD PROBABLY SUPPORT US PROPOSALS ON HERRING QUOTA, SINCE THIS SPECIES APPARENTLY NOT OF GREAT INTEREST TO ITALIAN FISHERMEN. HE REMARKED DRYLY THAT GOI "WAS CERTAINLY WELL AWARE OF IMPORTANCE USG ATTACHES TO EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT MEASURES," BUT SAID EXTENT TO WHICH GOI COULD SUPPORT US PROPOSALS WOULD DEPEND PRIMARILY ON ATTITUDE OF MMM, WHICH HAS TECHNICAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR FISHERIES WITHIN GOI. FIACCODORI SAID HE WOULD BRIEF MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS GUAZZARONI ON JANUARY 17 AND THAT LATTER WOULD IMPRESS UPON MMM FOREIGN POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF ISSUES INVOLVED AND REQUEST MAXIMUM SUPPORT FOR US PROPOSALS.

3. AS OF MORNING OF JANUARY 17, MMM HAD NOT YET DECIDED WHO ITS REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE. MOST LIKELY CANDIDATES ARE BARADA AND LUCIANO; DE LEON INDICATED HE PROBABLY COULD NOT ATTEND BECAUSE OF OTHER COMMITMENTS AWAY FROM ROME. MFA INDICATES IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY IT WILL BE REPRESENTED AT SPECIAL MEETING, EVEN THOUGH MEETING IS IN ROME.

4. COMMENT. (A) INFORMAL BILATERAL FISHERIES ENFORCEMENT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN US ICNAF DELEGATIONS REPS AND GOI OFFICIALS (SEE SPTTEL) WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE MAJOR FACTOR IN DETERMINING EXTENT TO WHICH GOI SUPPORTS US ENFORCEMENT PROPOSALS. MMM, RATHER THAN MFA, WILL HAVE FINAL SAY. (B) MFA HAS ONLY TWO OFFICERS RESPONSIBLE FOR FISHERIES AFFAIRS ON PART TIME BASIS. BOTH ARE DEEPLY INVOLVED AT PRESENT IN OTHER, HIGHER PRIORITY (AS SEEN BY MFA) ISSUES. TOO THIN STAFFING IS PROBLEM IN SEVERAL AREAS WITHIN MFA'S DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, RESULTING IN POOR COORDINATION BETWEEN MFA AND TECHNICAL MINISTRIES AND INABILITY ON PART OF MFA TO AFFECT POLICY SIGNIFICANTLY IN THESE AREAS. VOLPE

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